



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Electricity

Snowstorm Knocks Out Power to Over 100,000 Customers in Upper Midwest

According to media reports and electric company websites, a snowstorm moved across the Upper Midwest yesterday, knocking out power to over 100,000 customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio. Electric companies restored power quickly and are reporting only scattered outages today. According to a spokesman from Alliant Energy, one of the hardest hit utilities, factors contributing to outages included: 1) heavy snow on weighted branches, which snapped and shorted out many lines; 2) high moisture content that created ice on the lines, making them brittle and more prone to breaking; and 3) high winds that caused some lines to snap or cross each other.

Upper Midwest Customer Power Outages			
April 11-12, 2007			
Electric Company	State	Peak	Current
We Energy	Wisconsin	30,000	115
Alliant Energy	Wisconsin	22,000	76
Rock County Energy Cooperative	Wisconsin	1,800	n/a
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.	Wisconsin	1,200	0
Ohio Edison	Ohio	13,000	0
AEP	Ohio	8,000	700
Duke Energy	Ohio	4,700	0
Commonwealth Edison	Illinois	21,000	0
MidAmerican	Iowa	1,550	3
Alliant Energy	Iowa	500	0
Alliant Energy	Minnesota	1,000	0
TOTAL*		104,750	891

* Due to a large number of service providers, including investor owned utilities and cooperatives, the number of customer outages reported may not be comprehensive.

Sources: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=5202613>

<http://www.alliantenergy.com/docs/groups/public/documents/pub/p013332.hcsp>

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070411/NEWS/70411054>

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/news/338525.3_1_EL12_A1STORM_S1.article

<http://www.madison.com/wsj/mad/local/index.php?ntid=129000>

http://www.gazetteextra.com/wx_jvl041207.asp

<http://wcmh.weatherplus.com/weathernews/11719716/detail.html>

<http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=347717&Category=9&subCategoryID=>

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070412/NEWS01/704120414>

PPL's 2,094 MW Coal-fired Colstrip Power Plant in Montana Shut April 10

Units 1, 3, and 4 shut due to a transmission line trip at the time. Traders guessed that unit 2 did not shut with the trip because it was already off-line for maintenance work.

Reuters, 11:01 April 12, 2007

LCRA's 445 MW Coal-fired Fayette Unit 3 in Texas Shut April 11

Reuters, 09:25 April 12, 2007

St. Lucie County in Florida to Build Power Plant Fueled by Solid Waste

The county signed a deal to fund the plasma gasification plant with bonds. The plan is for the plant to be processing about 1,000 tons of solid waste per year when it opens in 2009.

Reuters, 15:02 April 11, 2007

Petroleum

OPEC Output Falls to Two-Year Low – IEA

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries reduced crude oil output in March 2007 by 165,000 barrels to 30.1 million b/d, the lowest since January 2005, according to the International Energy Agency. IEA said total world oil output fell by 265,000 barrels to 85.3 million b/d in March 2007.

Bloomberg News, 14:39 April 12, 2007

Valero Says Fire-damaged McKee Refinery in Texas to Partially Restart Soon Will Not Return to Full Capacity Until 2008

The refinery which was damaged and shutdown due to a February 2007 fire will restart at half capacity in mid-April, but will not return to normal operations until 2008.

Reuters, 13:51 April 12, 2007

ConocoPhillips to Delay Turnaround at 146,000 b/d Bolger Refinery in Texas

The planned turnaround will be delayed until May 2007 due to snags at other refineries in the United States. The company announced it wanted to wait until Valero's McKee refinery returned before starting the major turnaround at Bolger.

Bloomberg News, 13:49 April 12, 2007

Reuters, 15:07 April 12, 2007

Update: BP's FCC at 460,000 b/d Texas City Refinery in Texas Restarted April 12

The 120,000 b/d Fluid Catalytic Cracker Unit 3 was restarted and operating at normal levels today. Unit 3 shut after a power failure last week.

Reuters, 11:47 April 12, 2007

FCCU Shut at ConocoPhillips's 139,000 b/d Wilmington Refinery in California April 12

According to traders, the company shut down a Fluid Catalytic Cracker Unit at the refinery.

OPIS Alert, 11:51 April 12, 2007

Reuters, 15:03 April 12, 2007

Venezuela Grants \$2.5 Billion for Construction of New 150,000 b/d Refinery in Nicaragua

MarketWire, 06:39 April 12, 2007

Natural Gas

Illinois EPA Issues Air Permit for the Construction of the Secure Energy Decatur Gasification Plant in Illinois

The Secure Energy Decatur Gasification Plant is a coal to pipeline quality synthetic natural gas conversion facility. The plant will convert up to 1.4 million tons per year of high-sulfur Illinois coal into pipeline quality natural gas.

PRN 12:54 April 12, 2007

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 12, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	63.87	64.08	68.54
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.95	7.53	6.78

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

VeraSun Energy Opens New 110 Million Gallon/Year Ethanol Plant in Iowa

Reuters, 08:30 April 12, 2007

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to 13,000 Georgia Power Customers in Savannah, Georgia April 11

<http://www.wtoc.com/global/story.asp?s=6359613>

Leaking Natural Gas Pipeline Briefly Closes U.S. 60-West in Kentucky

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2007/apr/11/us-60gas-leakplugged/?gleaner=1>

TransCanada Nears Decision to Move Forward With Two 500 kV Transmission Lines from Montana and Wyoming to Southern Nevada

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6375435.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

ATC Modifies Timetable by 3 Months for 345 kV Transmission Line in Wisconsin

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/moreover/index.jsp?epi-content=GENERIC&newsId=20070410006189&&newsLang=en&beanID=1868105982&viewID=news_view

Alaska Senators Propose Bill to Give More Power to Office of Pipeline Coordinator to Spur Natural Gas Pipeline Effort

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6375502.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

Federal Judge Stops Arcoma Coal from Doing Any Further Valley Fills at Camp Branch Mine in West Virginia

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6375437.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

NRC Approves Revisions to New Plant Licensing Regulations

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8983974.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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